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23 February 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Assistant Director, Current Intelligence  
THROUGH : Chief Sino-Soviet Bloc Area  
FROM : Chief China and Asian Satellites Division  
SUBJECT : Preliminary Evaluation of [ ] Mission C045C  
Flown on 19 January 1965

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1. This mission covered a number of important targets in southern China adjacent to the Laos and North Vietnamese borders. It also covered some targets in northern Laos. There were no indications of any surface-to-air missile sites in the areas covered.

2. Mengtzu, the Chinese Communist airfield within 60 miles of North Vietnam, was photographed and about 60 jet fighters, none of them high performance aircraft, were noted. A Blue Springs Mission [ ] had covered Mengtzu [ ]. 65 jet fighters were seen on that occasion. This was an increase of 28, almost a full regiment, over previous estimates for this field. These aircraft might have come from Kunming and efforts were made both in the Blue Springs mission and the present mission to photograph Kunming. The angle of the photography in both cases makes it impossible to determine how many aircraft are at Kunming, however. Since other important airfields in the area were not covered we still do not know whether there has been a further augmentation of air strength in south China since [ ] or whether there have been only intra-airfield shifts.

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3. An airfield a few miles north of Mengtzu appears to be undergoing renovation. This field is located at Ping Yuan (23:43N-103:49E). The runway is apparently being cleared and will be about 7000 feet in length. There are about 100 construction shacks and other support buildings at the field.

4. A number of important barracks areas were photographed including those associated with the 13th Army and its subordinates. Some of those associated with the 14th Army and a number of border defense units within the Kunming Military

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Region were also photographed. No unusual activity was discernible except at Mien-ning, location of the 40th Infantry Division subordinate to the 14th Army, where activity was described as light to heavy.

5. At least seven airfields were covered in northern Laos but nothing of significance was noted. This was also true of the military areas of Nam Tha, Muong Sing, Muong Sai, Phong Saly, Luang Prabang, and Boun Neua, which were photographed.

6. While this mission did not disclose any significant military activity it should be noted that the levels of activity at a ground force installation can not be exactly determined by photo reconnaissance. It is, therefore, possible that a greater degree of activity is underway than is indicated in the photography.

Prepared By: [redacted]

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